



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS:

NEW HAMPSHIRE MOTORCYCLE GANG
“PROSPECT” PLEADS GUILTY TO WEAPONS CHARGE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that Charles A. Braid, age 31 (DOB: 09/09/72) of Sanbornville, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty today in United States District Court to an Information charging him with being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

Judge Steven McAuliffe ordered a sentencing hearing to be held on January 27, 2004. The defendant faces a maximum sentence of ten years in prison and a \$250,000.00 fine. Mr. Braid is being detained awaiting sentencing.

On July 27, 2003, Gilford Police officers observed a .45 caliber Ruger pistol in the defendant's truck during the Hells Angels "World Run" event in the Lakes Region. Mr. Braid was a prospective member of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Hells Angels participating in the event. It was later learned that the defendant is a convicted felon in Massachusetts.

In commenting on the plea, United States Attorney Colantuono stated, "Every time we take away a gun from a convicted felon is another victory for Project Safe Neighborhoods and the citizens of New Hampshire."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public, and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The case was the result of an investigation by the Gilford (NH) Police Department, the New Hampshire State Police Special Investigations Unit, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with the assistance of the Belknap County Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Clyde R. W. Garrigan, the Project Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator for the District of New Hampshire.